

ANTHUS ROSACEUS Hodgs.

A single example.

PROPASSER VINACEUS (Verr.).

AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS (Linn.).

A handsome specimen, labelled ♂, but from its size more probably ♀. Wing 25 in.; tail 14 in.

In April this district was left, and the hunters, returning to Chungking, made their way by river to Hankow, arriving in May, just two years after the start.

XXII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. LVIII.—LX.

No. LVIII. (December 31st, 1898).

THE fifty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of December, 1898. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-five Members and nine guests were present.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT characterized three new species of birds from the Louisiade Archipelago. He said that this group of islands, situated to the south-east of New Guinea, had been visited by Macgillivray during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Rattlesnake,' when a few birds had then been collected, and that more recently Canon Tristram and Mr. De Vis had described a few new forms from various islands of the group, but no large collections of birds had ever been made there. Mr. Albert S. Meek had recently stayed on various islands of the group and collected a great number of birds for Mr. Rothschild's Museum. His collections showed that the proportion of species and subspecies peculiar to this group of islands was rather large, and that the various islands were inhabited by different forms. A few new species had already been described at former meetings of this Club, but exhaustive articles would soon appear on the collections in the 'Novitates Zoologicae,' and were partly in the press. Examples of the following new species were exhibited:—

EDOLIOSOMA ROSTRATUM, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Bluish slate-colour; ear-coverts darker, almost black; lores, chin, and line at gape black. Wings black, inner webs very broadly white, outer webs bordered with the colour of the back, but lighter. Central rectrices slaty-grey like the back, black along the shaft, broadly tipped with black; the other rectrices black with narrow grey tips, the outermost pair broadly tipped with grey. Bill very large and strongly hooked. Wing 135, tail 115, culmen from base 43-44, bill from nostril to tip 20.5-21 mm.

♀ *ad.* Above greyish brown, the crown bluish ash; a narrow pale rufous superciliary line. Broad stripe behind eye and lores blackish grey; ear-coverts pale rusty brown, with dark greyish stripes. Remiges blackish; outer webs narrowly, inner webs broadly, bordered with pale cinnamon. Central rectrices pale greyish brown, narrowly tipped with pale cinnamon; the rest blackish brown, broadly tipped with cinnamon. Underside pale cinnamon, the sides of neck and breast more or less barred with black.

Hab. Rossel Island.

MYZOMELA ALBIGULA, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Above dark greyish black, the head and upper tail-coverts with slightly paler edges to the feathers. Tail blackish brown. Remiges blackish brown, outwardly narrowly edged with dusty grey; inner webs with broad pale ashy-white borders. Chin and throat pale brownish grey, with a short, more or less indistinct, dark red line on the lower margin. Chest dark ashy brown; remainder of underparts a little paler ashy brown, most of the feathers with slightly paler edges, thus producing a faintly streaked appearance. Under wing-coverts whitish grey. Bill, legs, and feet black. Wing 75, tail 58, culmen from forehead 23.5, tarsus 20 mm.

♀ *ad.* Smaller and paler, the abdomen almost whitish; throat whitish, in sharp contrast to the dark chest. Wing 68, tail 53, culmen 21 mm.

Hab. Rossel Island.

MYZOMELA PALLIDIOR, sp. n.

Both sexes alike in coloration and somewhat resembling the female of *M. albigula*, but above slightly more brownish: below lighter, the breast not much darker than the abdomen, the whitish throat not sharply in contrast with the chest. The red streak on the throat is distinct in the male, but not in the female; fore-neck with an ill-defined blackish spot just below the pale throat. ♂, wing 73; ♀, wing 67 mm.

Hab. St. Aignan Island.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent the description of a new subspecies of Cassowary as follows:—

CASUARIUS CASUARIUS INTENSUS, subsp. n.

♂ *ad.* The casque differs from that of *C. casuarius* in being very high and much more erect, the wattles almost entirely blue instead of dark red; the blue of the head and neck uniform and very dark; the orange of the hind-neck much restricted and separated at the upper end from the blue by a black crescent-shaped patch; naked sides of lower neck entirely uniform blue instead of red, bordered anteriorly with blue.

Hab. UNKNOWN.

Mr. Rothschild also sent the description of a new Cormorant:—

PHALACROCORAX TRAVERSI, sp. n.

Adult. No crest; crown, back of neck, and upper parts greenish steel-blue, much duller than in *P. onslowi*, and not showing a dorsal white patch; white alar bar broad and well-defined; tail-feathers black and twelve in number; throat and all under surface white; middle under tail-coverts black; feet reddish orange in skin. Nasal caruncles well-developed.

This species is exactly intermediate between *P. atriceps* and *P. verrucosus* in the disposal of the black and white on the sides of the head and neck. In *P. atriceps* the ear is situated in the middle of the white area, while in *P. verrucosus* the ear is in the middle of the black area. In

the new species the ear is exactly on the border, half in the white and half in the black area.

Wing 305 to 310, tail 145, culmen 65, tarsus 65, outer toe and claw 110 mm.

Hab. Macquarie Islands. Sent by Mr. Henry Travers.

A note was read from Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE calling attention to the differences exhibited by the Robin-Flycatchers (*Petræca leggi*) from Southern and Western Australia. The examples from the latter country seemed to be distinct, and Dr. Sharpe proposed for them the name of

PETRÆCA CAMPBELLI, sp. n.

Similis *P. leggi*, sed fasciâ frontali albâ minore, et albedine alarum magis restrictâ.

Hab. W. Australia.

Mr. F. J. JACKSON, C.B., sent for exhibition specimens of two apparently new species from Nandi in Equatorial Africa, for which he proposed the names of

PHOLIDAUGES SHARPII, sp. n.

P. purpurascenti-niger: speculo alari albo nullo: gutture albicante, præpectore et corpore reliquo subtùs dilutè cervinis: subcaudalibus quoque cervinis: subalaribus et axillaribus nigris. Long. tot. 72 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 4·15, caudæ 2·6, tarsi 0·85.

PARUS NIGRICINEREUS, sp. n.

♂. Similis *P. funereo*, Verr., sed tectricibus alarum albido minutè apicatis: capitis plumis schistaceo marginatis: gutture toto schistaceo-plumbeo, haud nigro, distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·2, tarsi 0·9.

♀. Clarius schistaceo-plumbea: gastræo toto schistaceo.

Mr. E. LORT PHILLIPS described two new species of birds from Somaliland:—

CAPRIMULGUS TORRIDUS, sp. n.

C. similis C. nubico et *C. fervido*, sed maculis notæi rufis magnis conspicuis et alis rufescentibus distinguendus.

Long. tot. 8·0 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 6·0, caudæ 4·0, tarsi 0·7.

Hab. Eyk, on the Howd plateau, Somaliland (*J. Bennett Stanford*).

Distinguished from *C. nubicus* (which it resembles in having the white spot on the inner web of the first primary reaching to the shaft) by its much more rufous colour, the back and wings being spangled with large rufous spots at the end of the feathers. The first four primaries and the two outer tail-feathers have large white spots.

The specimen had been shown to Dr. Reichenow, Mr. Oscar Neumann, and Mr. Hartert, who all agreed that it belonged to an undescribed species.

GRANATINA HAWKERI, sp. n.

Similis *G. ianthinogastris*, sed ubique pallidior: pileo et interscapulio cinnamomeo-rufis: dorso rufescenti-brunneo: faciei colore ianthino minus extenso, et fasciâ angustâ frontali haud continuâ distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·8 poll., culm. 0·4, alæ 2·2, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 0·65.

Hab. Bari (*E. L. P.*), Dabuloc (*R. M. Hawker*), Labello (*G. V. A. Peel*).

The light cinnamon colour of the head and mantle distinguishes the Somali form of the Hyacinth-bellied Weaver-Finch from the true *G. ianthinogaster* of Masailand, which has the back dark brown, contrasting with the chestnut head. The same light cinnamon colour pervades the throat and neck, and the blue on the face is not so extended.

The narrow frontal line of blue does not continue across the base of the forehead.

MR. LORT PHILLIPS also exhibited the nest of *Eurocephalus rueppelli*, described by him in the 'Ibis' for 1898 (p. 406).

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE sent the first sheets of a new 'Handlist of Birds,' of which the first volume would shortly be published by the Trustees of the British Museum. In its preparation Dr. Sharpe had already been engaged for the last five years, and he ventured to hope that ornithologists of every country would give him their assistance in endea-

vouring to make the new 'Handlist' as complete as possible. An attempt would be made in this new edition to incorporate all the fossil birds in their systematic places.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a skin of a Tanager (*Calliste pretiosa*) which had been obtained by Mr. A. H. Holland at his residence, Estancia Sta. Elena, in the Argentine Republic, on November 15th, 1897. It appeared to be in full adult plumage, and was labelled "♂. Bill, legs, and iris black."

Mr. Sclater remarked that this was the first occurrence of this species in the Argentine Republic, it having been previously known only from Paraguay and South Brazil (see Sclater, Cat. Birds B. M. xi. p. 114).

Mr. PHILIP CROWLEY exhibited some photographs of the nests and eggs of British Birds.

No. LIX. (January 30th, 1899).

THE fifty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-six Members and one guest were present.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE laid on the table a copy of a MS. "Index" to the generic names employed in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' which had been prepared by Mr. F. H. Waterhouse and presented by Dr. Sclater to the Natural History Museum, for the use of students in the Bird-room of that institution. The Committee had agreed that this work should be published as an extra volume of the 'Bulletin' of the B. O. C.

Dr. SHARPE exhibited a specimen of a Petrel of the genus *Æstrelata* which had been forwarded to him by Dr. J. von Madarász, of the Hungarian National Museum at Budapest. This was the specimen which had been determined as *Æ. hesitata* (*cf.* Eagle Clarke, *Ibis*, 1884, p. 202), and as

such had been recorded in many ornithological works as the single instance of the occurrence of the species in Hungary. Dr. Sharpe identified the specimen as *Æ. incerta* (Schl.).

Mr. F. W. STYAN described three new species of Chinese birds, as follows:—

PYCTORIUS GRACILIS, sp. n.

Similis *P. altirostri*, sed minor: sordidè fulvescenti-brunnea, pileo vix rufescentiore: caudâ cinnamomeâ: facie laterali brunneâ, regione paroticâ angustè albido striolatâ: supercilio griseo vix evidente: gulâ et gastræo medio albis: pectore et hypochondriis cervino lavatis: crisso, tibiis et subcaudalibus rufescentioribus. Long. tot. 6·0 poll., culmen 0·4, alæ 2·0, caudæ 2·8, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Lung An, N.W. Sechuan (10,000 feet).

PROPARUS FUCATUS, sp. n.

Similis *P. cinereicipiti*, sed lætiùs coloratus: capite brunneo, dorso castaneo, uropygio lætè rufo, hypochondriis et subcaudalibus lætè rufescentibus distinguendus. Culmen 0·3 poll., alæ 2·2, caudæ 2·2, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Ichang, W. Hupeh.

SCHENIPARUS VARIEGATUS, sp. n.

Similis *S. dubio*, sed minus rufescens, pileo minus rufescente: corporis lateribus olivascentioribus, rostro nigro distinguendus. Long. tot. 6·0 poll., culmen 0·55, alæ 2·3, caudæ 2·8, tarsi 0·95.

Hab. Suiyang, Kweichow.

Mr. STYAN also exhibited specimens of some other rare species of birds from the north-west frontier of China, among them *Sitta przewalskii*, *Acredula fuliginosa*, &c.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition the nest and egg of a Bird of Paradise, *Cnemophilus macgregoriae* De Vis, which was found by native collectors on Mount Knutsford (alt. 11,000 feet), in British New Guinea. The nest was a well-built structure about 90 mm. high, 150–180 mm. wide, and with an inside cup of from 75 to 85 mm.

diameter and a depth of about 53 mm. in the middle. The walls of the nest consisted chiefly of green moss, interwoven with ferns and rootlets, and it was lined with skeletonized leaves and some feathers of *Casuarium*. The single egg—unfortunately damaged—had a very fine shell, was elongato-ovate in shape, white, with an irregular ring of brownish-black spots near the larger end and a few such spots all over, and with some underlying grey patches. It measured about 31.5 mm. in length and 20 mm. in breadth.

This contribution was further illustrated by the exhibition of a pair of adult birds of *Cnemophilus macgregoriae* and two young birds of the same species.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD also sent the following description of a new subspecies of Cassowary:—

CASUARIUS CASUARIUS VIOLICOLLIS, subsp. n.

This apparently undescribed form of Cassowary was most nearly allied to *Casuarium casuarium salvadorii*, but differed conspicuously in the colour of the naked parts and in the very large size, which fully equalled that of *C. casuarium australis*.

Bill much longer and straighter than in any other species of Cassowary. Casque horny brown, green at base. Face and a broad band running down the side of the bill bluish green. Base of lower mandible dark blue, with a yellow line running along one-third of the length of the mandible on each side. Wattles at base of fore-neck very large, round, and short, $3 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, pale blue at base, otherwise pink all over, entirely separate for their whole length, but close together. Auricular orifice larger than in any other Cassowary. Throat and fore-neck bright ultramarine-blue. Occiput and upper hind-neck pale greenish or eau-de-Nil blue. Lower hind-neck brilliant orange-scarlet. Naked lower sides of neck magenta-purple, bordered anteriorly with ultramarine-blue, posteriorly with orange-scarlet; the magenta-purple space deeply carunculated and

sharply cut off from the red and blue borders, which are plain and smooth.

Hab. Aru Islands, ?Trangan Island. (Spec. in vivario Rothschildiano.)

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited a very fine specimen of a hybrid Pheasant, *Phasianus reevesi* ♀ × *Phasianus colchicus* ♂.

No. LX. (February 27th, 1899).

THE fifty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of February, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Thirty-eight Members and nine guests were present.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS exhibited a specimen of a Levantine Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouanus*) which had been shot by a wildfowler near Scarborough on the 5th of this month. The bird was a male, and had been sent in the flesh to the British Museum for determination.

Mr. H. J. PEARSON exhibited, on behalf of Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, a female Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in full breeding-plumage. This specimen had been procured by Mr. W. S. Bruce on Kostin Point, at the southern extremity of Meshdoshapsk Island, off the south coast of Novaya Zemlya, on the 19th of June, 1898. It was one of a pair, which Mr. Bruce was convinced were breeding on the island. This was the first record of the species in any part of Novaya Zemlya.

Mr. E. BIDWELL exhibited a birds'-nesting stick, which had been found to be of great utility in his expeditions with Mr. H. J. Pearson, who also testified to the excellent results obtained by the invention.

The Rev. H. A. MACPHERSON exhibited a nestling Duck, which was the offspring of a female *Anas boscas* and a male *Dafila acuta*.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition the type of a new Thrush, which he described as follows :—

GEOCICHLA DUMASI, sp. n.

This fine new species has been discovered on the Island of Buru by Mr. Dumas, a companion of the late Mr. A. H. Everett, and is perhaps nearest to *G. dohertyi*, from the Lesser Sunda Islands, but is quite distinct.

♂ *ad.* Whole upper surface bright olive-rufous brown, with two tufts of creamy white feathers, one on each side of the rump. Lesser upper wing-coverts like the back; greater upper wing-coverts black, with two rows of large round white spots. Remiges blackish brown; the outer webs of the primaries with narrow, those of the secondaries with broad, olive-rufous borders. All wing-feathers, except the outer three, with large white patches near the base of the inner webs. Tail like the back, but darker. Whole throat and chest black; abdomen white; flanks olive-yellowish brown, some feathers on the side of the breast olive with black tips, as well as some of the white breast-feathers, thus forming a broken irregular band across the breast. Under tail-coverts creamy white. Under wing-coverts mixed black and white. Iris dark brown; bill black; feet light. Culmen 23, wing 94, tail 68, tarsus 32 mm.

Hab. Mt. Mada, Buru (3000 feet), August 1898.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited specimens of six new species of birds from Buru. They had been collected by Mr. Dumas, who had accompanied the late Mr. A. H. Everett during his last expeditions. Mr. Hartert pointed out that some of the forms were of great zoo-geographical interest. The entire collection would be fully discussed in 'Novitates Zoologicæ.'

The new forms were described as follows :—

ACANTHOPNEUSTE EVERETTI, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Top of head greyish brown; superciliary line pale grey, not very conspicuous. Rest of upperside dark olive-green. Tail and wings blackish brown, edged with the colour of the back. Throat dirty white; remainder of under surface bright sulphur-yellow; sides of breast and body washed with greenish olive. Wing 59, tail 42, tarsus 22, culmen 13 mm.

♀ *ad.* Like the male, but a little smaller.

Juv. Throat like the rest of the under surface.

Hab. Mt. Mada, Buru.

PHYLLERGATES EVERETTI DUMASI, subsp. n.

Differs from typical *Phyllergates everetti* of Flores in being slightly more brownish on the nape, and less greenish, more rufous-olive on the back, and in having no indication of white on the outer rectrix.

Hab. Mt. Mada, Buru.

ERYTHROMYIAS BURUENSIS, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Top and sides of head slate-colour; upper wing-coverts brownish slaty; remainder of the upper surface ashy brown. Rectrices and remiges ashy brown, with lighter brown outer edges; quills quite pale on the edges of the inner webs. Chin, throat, chest, and sides of body cinnamon-rufous; flanks washed with brown; middle of abdomen white; under tail-coverts buffy white. Iris olive; feet brown; bill black. Wing 69-70, tail 52, tarsus 21, culmen 16 mm.

♀ *ad.* Like the male, but smaller. Wing 63-64 mm.

Hab. Mt. Mada, Buru (3000 feet).

RHIPIDURA SUPERFLUA, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Top and sides of head light brown; a line from base of bill to above the eyes brownish buff. Hind-neck and uppermost part of back like the head; remainder of upper parts bright cinnamon-rufous. Remiges brownish black, the inner edges of all whitish buff; outer edges of secondaries bright rufous. Rectrices blackish brown, the base and outer edges of basal part dark cinnamon-rufous; all, including

the central pair, broadly tipped with cinnamon, darker on the middle ones. Throat white, with a black patch across the crop; remainder of under surface rufous-buff, the sides washed with brown; under tail-coverts and thighs cinnamon. Wing 68, tail 80, tarsus 18, culmen 13 mm.

♀ smaller, wing about 62 mm.

Hab. Mt. Mada, Buru (3000 feet).

PACHYCEPHALA MELANURA BURUENSIS, subsp. n.

The Thickhead, with golden-yellow under surface in the male, from Buru, has hitherto been considered the same as *P. clio* from the Sula Islands, but it differs considerably from the latter species in being of a much deeper dark greenish-olive colour on the upperside and in having all the upper wing-coverts pure black with narrow olive edges. The golden-yellow collar on the back of the neck is unbroken, the pectoral pure black collar being very wide and broadly united with the black sides of the head. The remiges are edged with the colour of the back; the tail black. The female differs also from that of *P. clio* of the Sula Islands in the colour of the under surface, which is pale buffish brown, lighter in the middle of the abdomen, darker and browner on the chest, and becoming more greyish on the throat. Under tail-coverts buffy yellow. The young male is more rufous below and darker on the back than the female, which is olive-brown above. ♂ *ad.* Wing 93, tail 73, culmen 18-19 mm.

♀ *ad.* Wing 89 mm.

Hab. Buru.

I consider all these yellow Thickheads to be geographical representatives of one species.

COLUMBA MADA, sp. n.

♂. Bill yellow, red at base. Top of head and neck pure grey, merging into the colour of the rest of the upper surface, which is slate-colour with light grey borders to the feathers. Rectrices deep slaty brown, with narrow pale brownish tips. Bare skin round eyes red. Sides of head, throat, chest, and breast buff, palest on the throat. Abdomen brownish

vinaceous; under tail-coverts cinnamon. Feet and iris red. Wing 229, tail 170, exposed portion of culmen 16 mm.

♀. Like the male, but slightly smaller.

Hab. Mt. Mada, Buru.

Mr. HARTERT also exhibited a new Thickhead, and characterized it as follows:—

PACHYCEPHALA PENINSULÆ, sp. n.

♂. Top of the head ashy brown; remainder of upper surface, including tail, olive-green. Remiges blackish; inner webs with whitish borders; outer webs edged with greenish olive. Lores ashy; an indistinct pale buffy eyebrow. Sides of head ashy brown. Throat white. Breast light yellowish grey, with darker shaft-lines; abdomen pale sulphur-yellow, with dark shaft-stripes. Under wing-coverts white, with a faint yellow tinge, those towards the bend of the wing brownish, with a yellow tinge. Iris brown; feet light bluish slate. Bill brown. Wing 78–79, tail 63, culmen 16·5, tarsus 20 mm.

Juv. Head pale brown, not ashy.

Hab. Cape York, N.E. Australia.

This form is very closely allied to and possibly only a subspecies of *P. griseiceps*.

Mr. E. HARTERT also made some remarks on the Crested Larks (*Galeridæ*), and observed that there were some of his friends who had expressed to him their disbelief in the many sub-species of *Galerida cristata* recognized in an article in 'Novitates Zoologicæ' about two years ago; but he could assure the sceptics that there were many more forms yet to be discriminated, and that he would shortly describe some more races, examples of which he had recently received. The explanation of the great local variation of *G. cristata* lay entirely in their having absolutely limited areas of distribution. It was possible that one or two of the forms recognized in the above-mentioned article would not stand as good sub-species, but the majority were very distinct, and many more might yet be discovered. There was, however,

one mistake in his memoir which he admitted. He had enumerated *Galerida theklæ* as one of the sub-species of *G. cristata*, but he found now that the secondaries, in the adult bird, were so much shorter than in *G. cristata*, and the first (spurious) primary was comparatively so much longer, that it would be necessary to follow Dr. Sharpe in recognizing *G. theklæ* as a distinct species, especially since recent observations had shown that forms of *G. cristata* and *G. theklæ* breed in the same area, while Mr. Hartert formerly supposed that they inhabited different parts of the country. The specific difference of *G. theklæ* had been insisted on by Brehm and Sharpe, and recently again (*in litteris*) by Klein Schmidt, but nobody had ever pointed out the most important characters. There were other features besides, in the form and size of bill and in the colour. *Galerida malabarica* would also have to stand as a species, being after all very different from *G. cristata*. Mr. Hartert hoped to return to the interesting subject of the Crested Larks on a future occasion. He considered that his investigations had, in fact, only just commenced.

Captain G. E. SHELLEY communicated the descriptions of four new species of birds from Nyasa Land :—

MELANBUCCO MACCLOUNII, sp. n.

Similar to *M. levaillanti*, but with the back of the head and neck black; a large bare patch round the eye, the posterior half of which is surrounded by the white of the entire sides and front of the neck, this also extending over the sides of the back. Total length 7·2 inches, culmen 0·8, wing 3·4, tail 2·6, tarsus 0·85.

CISTICOLA ALTICOLA, sp. n.

Allied to *C. angusticauda*, Reichen., from Uniamwesi, and with the back of neck, back, and wing-coverts uniform ashy grey; quills and tail brown, the latter with white ends, but without dark sub-terminal marks on the feathers, and the underparts white shaded with grey on the flanks. It is distinguished by having the entire ear-coverts, and head above

the line of the gape, uniform deep rufous brown. Total length 5·6 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·25, tail 2·7, tarsus 0·8.

MALACONOTUS MANNINGI, sp. n.

Nearly allied to *Laniarius melamprosopus*, Reichen., but readily distinguished by the uniform deep grey colouring of the crown, back of neck, and upper back, and the almost entire absence of yellow tips to any of the wing-feathers. Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 3·7, tail 3·6, tarsus 1·0.

MUSCICAPA NYIKENSIS, sp. n.

Similar to *M. lugens*, with the bill entirely black, but characterized by its large size and by having a narrow white forehead; the space in front of the eyes and the cheeks also white, like the throat. Total length 6·6 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 3·3, tail 3·1, tarsus 0·9.

Hab. Nyika Plateau, 6000 to 7000 feet (*Alexander Whyte*).

Mr. F. CURTIS exhibited a specimen of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Tringoides macularius*), which had been shot on the 2nd of February, at Finea, Co. Longford, Ireland, by Mr. Frank Roberts. The bird, which proved to be a female, was very tame, and was feeding at the time in a meadow much trodden by cattle by the side of the river Finea, within a short distance of the village.

Mr. J. G. MILLAIS exhibited a remarkable hybrid between a male Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*) and a female Bantam Fowl.

Mr. W. EAGLE CLARKE sent a communication, as follows:— A Bustard was obtained at St. Fergus, on the Pitfour estate, Aberdeenshire, on the 24th of October last, and Mr. J. G. Walker, who shot and owns the specimen, has recently submitted it to me for identification. I found it, as Mr. Walker suspected, to be an example of the Asiatic *Houbara macqueeni*, and a female in immature plumage. This is the fourth British and the first Scottish specimen, and it is the only

female that has wandered as far west as Great Britain. The bird was unfortunately recorded by Mr. Walker as a "Little" Bustard in the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History' for January (p. 51). A similar fate befell the first English specimen (Zool. [1848] p. 1969).

Mr. E. BIDWELL exhibited a series of nests of British birds built of abnormal materials. The following gentlemen were the contributors to this exhibition :—

Mr. P. CROWLEY.

Nest of the Chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs*), partly covered with scraps of printed paper.

Mr. A. HOLTE MACPIERSON.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*). Nest composed of old wax vestas, cigarette-papers, &c. Taken near Hyde Park Corner, 1898.

Mr. J. GERRARD.

Common Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*). Nest with open top, built under a bank. From the Shetland Islands.

Mr. H. NOBLE.

Madeiran Swift (*Cypselus unicolor*). Nest with tobacco-paper and feathers worked into the lining. From El Ancon, Teneriffe.

Mr. R. H. READ.

Two nests of the Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa atricapilla*), and two of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*).

A nest of the Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla lugubris*), built in a Blackbird's nest; and one of the Redbreast (*Eithacus rubecula*), with a Cuckoo's egg, built in an old Thrush's nest.

Mr. F. C. SELOUS.

Nest of the Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus rufus*), built without any lining of feathers.

Mr. E. BIDWELL.

Nest of the Nightingale (*Daulias luscinia*), lined with feathers. From Redhill.

Nest of the Sedge-Warbler (*Acrocephalus phragmitis*), lined with feathers. From Walton-on-Thames.

Nest of the Hedge-Sparrow (*Accentor modularis*), made of sticks and lined with feathers.

Nest of the Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus rufus*), built without feather-lining. From the Lizard, Cornwall.

Nest of the Penduline Titmouse (*Ægithalus pendulinus*). From S. Europe.

Nest of the Chaffinch (*Fringilla cælebs*), partly covered with scraps of wall-paper.

Nest of the Woodchat (*Lanius pomeranus*), built with flowers. From Malaga.

Nest of the Icterine Warbler (*Hypolais icterina*), built with feathers. Taken within the Arctic Circle in Norway.

Nest of the Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), with the eggs concealed with paper. River Thames.

Mr. J. WHITAKER.

Nest of the Common Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), partly constructed of wire. From Stoke, Notts.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Bidwell for the very interesting exhibition he had prepared.

XXIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 152.]

34. *Albert on the Birds of Chile.*

[Contribuciones al estudio de Aves Chilenas, por Federico Albert. Entregas 1-5. Santiago, 1898.]

It was quite time that some resident naturalist should take up the study of the interesting avifauna of Chile, and we are pleased that Mr. Albert (Primer preparador del Museo Nacional) should have done so. This series of